

Application No.: 09/763,511

Amendment dated December 12, 2003

Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2003 & Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of 11/13/2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants' attorney appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Alvo during the brief telephone interview of October 28, 2003 in which the claims as amended above were discussed.

It is believed that claims 9-12 and 29 now remaining in the application all directed to an apparatus are now in condition for allowance and such is courteously requested. Applicants would note that by the amendment presented herewith, they do not concede that the other claims which have been cancelled or withdrawn from consideration are in any way anticipated or obvious in view of the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that applicants have received favorable treatment for the same or similar claims during the course of national or regional phase examinations elsewhere. Nonetheless, in order to advance the present application to allowance, applicants have withdrawn or cancelled all of the claims now pending other than remaining claims 9-12 and 29 without prejudice to filing a continuation application.

Independent claims 9 and 10 both now include the technical features of a computer comprising stored information on fibre length of produced wood fibre or wood pulp or the length of produced wood fibre or wood pulp versus sound velocity and arranged to determine a measure of average fibre length by reference to the stored information on fibre length versus detected velocity. In the case of claim 29, previously allowed, the language is that the computer comprises stored information on fibre characteristics versus sound velocity through wood. In regard to each of the claims currently pending, applicant respectfully submits that they clearly

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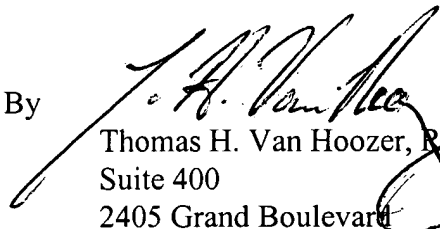
define the invention in a patentable way over the prior art.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and such is courteously requested. Should the Examiner have any questions after reviewing the foregoing, he is requested to contact the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fees necessitated by this amendment may be charged to Deposit Account 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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